

Victims of Moloch

Moloch was the fire-god of ancient Phoenicia.
Young children were offered as victims,
and consumed by the flames
issuing from the statue
of the god.



*The United States Public Health Service
in cooperation with the North Dakota
Department of Public Health.*

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Victims of Moloch

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The control and prevention of venereal disease was of so much importance during the war that special agencies were created, by Congress, to deal with the subject.

Investigations made at that time, and since, have brought to a focus the facts, long known to the medical profession, that venereal diseases are the source of many symptoms and ailments, often ascribed to other causes, and that they constitute a menace to the health and welfare of the present and future generations of our people.

North Dakota was in advance of most States in passing laws dealing with the prohibition of prostitution and immorality, and providing for the care and treatment of venereally infected persons.

Two phases of the work are dealt with in cases quoted in this pamphlet.

It has been found that twelve per cent of all the inmates of the State Hospital for Insane, give a positive Wassermann reaction on admission, showing that syphilis exists. Blood tests are now made on all patients admitted to determine

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whether or not syphilis is a factor in the mental affection.

Dr. A. W. Guest, Superintendent of the Institution, cooperates splendidly with this Bureau and at once reports all patients giving a positive reaction. The Bureau then takes the matter up with the patient's relatives and urges the importance of having blood tests made of all members of the family to ascertain if there is any blood taint and, if so, gives every assistance in securing treatment. Doctor Guest has been very successful in his treatment and has originated a method of administering the drugs used without injecting into the veins—which could not be done with the patients he treats.

In a recent letter to this Bureau, the Superintendent of the State Hospital for Insane Says:

“I thought you might be interested in knowing that goes home today in excellent mental and physical condition.

He was committed to this Hospital with symptoms of incipient paresis, including a four plus Wassermann. Intensive treatment has been carried out in this case during the past year and now the laboratory report shows a negative Wassermann. The physical and mental symptoms have shown a corresponding improvement. We are rather proud of this case. It is one of several in which we have brought about a similar result in the past year.”

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The amount of venereal infection among young girls has been rapidly increasing and has proven to be a serious problem for the Bureau. Many of the

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girls reported have been taken before the juvenile courts as sexual delinquents and the Bureau has been called upon to aid in treating those infected with venereal diseases. The principal causes leading to the wrong-doing of these girls have been found to be: ignorance of sex problems; indiscriminate automobile riding with men, often strangers, and unregulated public dances.

Dr. Daisy M. O. Robinson, Special Consultant, United States Public Health Service, has recently made an investigation into many cases in this state, and has made a report to the Bureau from which the following extracts are taken:

* * *

A. Age 17: states that she kept company with boys of 16 and 17 years of age when she was 14 years of age, having had sexual intercourse with many and continued such relations at the age of 16 with men of 20 and 23 years of age; that she had practically no one to look after her and she was left to do as she pleased; that she has gonorrhoea and is now being treated.

* * *

B. Age 17: Says she is being treated for gonorrhoea three times weekly; that her mother never taught her anything about sex, and that most of her girl friends were intimate with boys and she was persuaded by them to keep company with boys when she was about 15 years of age, and later she selected men of 21 to 24 years of age.

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C. Age 17. The girl says she was always taught to be good but at the age of 15 she was forced by a man of about 30 years of age to have sexual relations of which she did not tell

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her mother; at another time when she was returning home from a dance with a man of 19 she was persuaded against her will into sexual relations with him; she did not tell her mother of this occurrence; she found that other girls in school and other acquaintances, not in school, were leading such lives and they did not confide this to their parents so she was persuaded not to tell her mother. She became diseased, having gonorrhoea, for which she is now being treated.

* * *

D. Age 17: Says that she lived a proper life while at home. She then met a girl of 18 years of age who kept company with men and she went with her to another city, where she became employed and then started to have promiscuous sexual intercourse. She says this girl friend is diseased and has had several abortions.

* * *

E. Age 19: Has worked for six years in housework and had kept company with various men from the age of 16, having had sexual relations with them often in going to dances in autos; she then impetuously said: "I believe there is scarcely a girl in one hundred who does not have intimate relations with men"; when questioned more closely as to the veracity of this she said: "she knew but few girls among her school and outside friends who did not allow sexual intercourse with boys and men, and that some of them had become pregnant but never had the baby born"; she says she became diseased as the man with whom she was last intimate had syphilis and gonorrhoea and was not under treatment.

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F. Age 18: Says that when about the age of 16 years she started to have illicit relations with men; that a girl friend during a vacation visited her and related what a good time the girls were having in Minneapolis in auto rides into the country and that they allowed their escorts to become intimate with them and following this, she, too, accepted invitations to take

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auto rides, that at the age of 17 she went continually with men; that she has gonorrhoea and is being treated.

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G. Age 17: Says that she was engaged in hotel work, and at this time she drifted into bad company; that she did not have the power to resist the different men who approached her; that she finally got gonorrhoea; that her girl companion of 17 years of age, with whom she slept, had gonorrhoea; that her companions were men of 25 to 30 years of age.

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H. Age 18: Says that her mother allowed her to accept invitations to go to dances in autos and her escorts were considered reputable young men and in this way she allowed sexual relations; she further states that most of her girl friends are intimate with the men they go with; why almost every man who takes a girl to a dance expects this, and a lot of these girls are diseased and I know they are not being treated. She says she always had good home teaching but the men and her girl friends told her different things. She states that she had gonorrhoea.

* * *

I. Age 17: Says that she was invited to go in a fine auto, to a town 20 miles distant from her home; that she did not know the name of the man who owned the auto; that she sat on the front seat of the auto with him enroute and he said he would have to fix his auto and he told her she would have to get out and let him pass; that he seized her and dragged her into some bushes and that he gave her the disease she has.

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J. Age 16: States that traveling men and others often came to the house and she went with them to dances in autos and had sexual relations with some of them; that she has gonorrhoea.

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There are sufficient laws in this State to meet the causes leading up to the terri-

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ble conditions shown to exist. Senate Bill No. 61, Sessions Laws 1919, makes it unlawful to engage in any form of prostitution or lewdness or to use any conveyance or building for such purpose.

Of more importance than penalties for infraction of the law, is the prevention of wholesale seduction of children that is constantly going on. This can, in a large measure, be accomplished by instructing young people in sex problems and the importance of self discipline and control in early life.

The Bureau of Venereal Disease is continually conducting an educational campaign in homes, schools, women's clubs and other institutions. Pamphlets on sex hygiene are printed and distributed free throughout the State and furnished in quantities to public health nurses and social workers. Moving pictures and exhibits for visual instruction on the same subject are loaned free of charge and lecturers are also provided free for public meetings. Pamphlets giving reliable information on sex facts are available as follows:

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- Pamphlet A for young men.
- Pamphlet B for General Public.
- Pamphlet C for boys.
- Pamphlet D for Parents.
- Pamphlet E for Girls and Young Women.
- Pamphlet F for Educators.

Write to: U. S. Public Health Service, Room 360, Federal Building, Bismarck, N. D.



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